

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of producing packed tofu comprising the sequential steps of:

applying an aqueous ethanol solution or an aqueous solution containing at least one of a magnesium salt and a calcium salt to the inside surface of [[a]] an empty container to coat the inside surface of the empty container,

filling the thus-coated empty container with soybean milk containing a coagulant,

sealing the container, and

heating the sealed container to coagulate the soybean milk.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous ethanol solution has a concentration of 0.5% by weight or higher.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution is water containing a total concentration of at least 1 ppm of magnesium ions or calcium ions or both.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution is sea water.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises, intentionally as a manufacturing step, giving impact from the outside of the container to the sealed container having tofu packed therein after the heat coagulation step.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said impact is slapping the container or dropping the container sufficient to break a contact between contained tofu and the inside surface of the container.

7. (currently amended) A method of producing packed tofu which comprises the sequential steps of:

filling a container with soybean milk containing a coagulant,

sealing the container,

heating the sealed container to coagulate the soybean milk, and

as part of the manufacturing process, intentionally dropping the container from a height sufficient to break a contact between contained tofu and an inside surface of the container.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein prior to said filling step, there is a step of applying an aqueous solution comprising at least one of a magnesium salt and a calcium salt to an interior surface of the container.

10. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution is an aqueous ethanol solution.

11. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein, the step of applying an aqueous ethanol solution or an aqueous solution to the inside surface of the empty container coats the entire inside surface of the empty container.

12. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein, the step of applying an aqueous ethanol solution or an aqueous solution to the inside surface of the empty container coats substantially the entire inside surface of the empty container.

13. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is applied to the inside surface of the empty container by swabbing with a cloth impregnated with the solution.

14. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is applied to the inside surface of the empty container by spraying the solution onto the inside surface of the container.

15. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is applied thinly and uniformly to the inside surface of the empty container.

16. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution is applied 1.0 to 50% by weight ethanol concentration.

17. (new) The method according to claim 5, wherein said impact is by slapping the outside of the container with sufficient force to make a gap between the container inside surface and contained tofu and to cause some water to separate and be present between the tofu and the container.